

Submitted: February 18, 2016
Approved: February 18, 2016

**MINUTES OF THE ROCKVILLE
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MEETING NO. 1-2016
Thursday, January 21, 2016**

The City of Rockville Historic District Commission convened
in the Mayor and Council Chambers on
January 21, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Rob Achtmeyer, Chair
Emily Correll
Craig Moloney
Anita Neal-Powell

Absent: Jessica Reynolds

Present: Jim Wasilak, Chief of Zoning
Sheila Bashiri, Preservation Planner
Cynthia Walters, Deputy City Attorney
Deane Mellander, Zoning Administrator

I. AGENDA REVIEW WORKSESSION (Black Eyed Susan Conference Room)

Chair Achtmeyer announced that there were no decisions made during the Work Session regarding agenda items.

II. ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR 2016

Commissioner Correll moved, seconded by Commissioner Neal Powell, to nominate Rob Achtmeyer as chair for 2016. The motion passed 4-0, with Commissioner Reynolds absent.

III. COMMITTEE / ORGANIZATION REPORTS

- A. Peerless Rockville – Nancy Pickard, Executive Director
- B. Lincoln Park Historical Foundation - Anita Neal Powell
- C. Public Comments/Open Forum
 - 1. Nancy Pickard, Peerless Rockville, expressed support for many of the proposed changes in the preservation text amendment, including those advocated by Peerless Rockville. She asked for some clarifications on certain aspects, including demolition review, the mailbox and house number section.
- D. HDC and Staff Comments – None

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 17, 2015

Commissioner Moloney moved, seconded by Commissioner Neal Powell, to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed 4-0, with Commissioner Reynolds absent.

V. CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

- A. HDC2016-00777**, Robert Achtmeyer and Kate Lenane, for approval to enclose the side porch, install French doors and a patio, remove a window and install a skylight at 26 Wall Street.

Chair Achtmeyer announced that he will recuse himself from the application because he and his wife are the applicants, and left the meeting.

Mark Goldsborough, contractor, stated that the replacement boards would be from GAF and not reused, and answered questions from the Commission. Ms. Bashiri noted that no comments had been received from neighbors.

Commissioner Neal Powell moved, seconded by Commissioner Correll, that Commissioner Moloney act as Chair Pro Tem for the application. The motion passed 3-0, with Commissioner Achtmeyer absent for the vote and Commissioner Reynolds absent.

Mr. Achtmeyer returned to the meeting.

VI. EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

- A. HDC2016-00778**, Robert Shapiro, for an evaluation of significance to allow demolition of the existing dwelling at 211 North Van Buren Street.

Ms. Bashiri presented the staff report, which recommended that the property did not meet any of the criteria for historic designation.

Commissioner Moloney moved, seconded by Commissioner Correll, to accept the staff recommendation that the property does not meet any of the criteria for designation. The motion passed 4-0, with Commissioner Reynolds absent.

VII. DISCUSSION

- A. Discussion of Draft Historic Preservation Text Amendment** – Jim Wasilak presented the changes that have been recommended by staff in response to the HDC's discussion at the December 17 meeting. He explained that with the new draft, anyone can submit a property for nomination, along with a completed Inventory of Historic Properties form from the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT). He noted that staff had the ability to review the form as completed to determine if it was sufficient. For demolition review, staff presented a streamlined process by

which a demolition request receives a simplified checklist initially, and if significance is possible, the full review would be done. Mr. Wasilak explained the changes to items on the list of administrative approvals that are considered minor.

Chair Achtmeyer raised the issue of co-owned landscaping, and whether those items should be reviewed by the HDC only. Staff will look at incorporating this into the text.

Mr. Wasilak explained that staff had not included the process for demolition review in the text, as this could appear in a companion document, but stated that staff would look at what could be included. Deane Mellander stated that the demolition review was not included in the initiation of designation section as it was intended to be separate. Nancy Pickard questioned the ordering of the section, and Mr. Wasilak and Mr. Mellander explained that it is correct as written. Mr. Wasilak clarified that the HDC would continue to review demolitions, but that a majority of the HDC would have to vote to do the full review.

Mr. Wasilak stated that the next step is for the Mayor and Council to authorize the filing of the text amendment, which is scheduled for February.

B. Old Business

Ms. Bashiri stated that she is working to schedule training from the Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions (MAHDC) to fulfill the annual training requirement. Commissioners asked to send her dates that they are unavailable in March, April or May.

Chair Achtmeyer noted that commissioners have met with the two applicants for the current vacancies on the HDC.

C. New Business

Mr. Wasilak and Ms. Bashiri passed out the Historic Preservation Report, which summarizes the current state of preservation in the City. Author Cindy Kebba will present at the next meeting. Chair Achtmeyer asked that the document be sent to Commissioner Reynolds.

Ms. Bashiri informed the Commission of two agenda items for the next meeting: the King Farm dairy barn rehabilitation, and a proposed garage and driveway at 107 West Jefferson Street.

VII. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Achtmeyer adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m.